



Public Notice

**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Memphis District**

File No. 2007-396

REPLY TO ATTN: Randy Clark
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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PUBLIC NOTICE NO:
Mississippi River
MVM-2007-396 (RC)

DATE:
October 1, 2007

EXPIRATION
October 31, 2007

POSTMASTER PLEASE POST UNTIL:

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
and
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**

The Memphis District Corps of Engineers, hereby gives notice pursuant to Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and 33 CFR 337 published in the Federal Register April 26, 1988, of the U.S. Government's proposed deposition of dredged material in connection with maintenance of the navigational channel on the Mississippi River and for Hickman Harbor within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

APPLICANT: Memphis District Corps of Engineers
Operations Division
167 N. Main Street, RM B-202
Memphis, TN 38103-1894
Telephone (901) 544-0732

AUTHORIZATION: Mississippi River Channel Maintenance Dredging project is authorized under the Flood Control Act of May 15, 1928 and amendments June 15, 1936, June 28, 1938, August 18, 1944 and December 22, 1994. The project provides for a suitably aligned navigation channel 12 feet deep and 300 feet wide. Present funding limits the project to a channel 9 feet deep and 300 feet wide.

LOCATION: At various locations on the Mississippi River, between River Miles 886 and 930 Above the Head of Passes (AHP) and within Hickman Harbor at approximate River Mile 921.5 AHP as shown on the attached Location Map.

PURPOSE: To maintain the authorized navigation channel within the Mississippi River.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: Dredging is conducted on an as-needed basis to maintain the minimum project channel dimensions at any river stage. Mississippi River channel maintenance dredging is done by use of dustpan hydraulic dredges. The dustpan dredge operates by making a series of relatively narrow, adjacent parallel cuts, discharging the material overboard in the same pattern as the dredge cuts and at a distance of approximately 800 feet perpendicular to the direction of the cuts. The material may be discharged to either side of the dredge cut and is transported from the cut area to discharge area through a pipeline supported by pontoons. Harbor dredging is normally performed by a cutterhead hydraulic dredge operated by a contractor for the District under a rental contract.

The dustpan dredges deposit approximately 4.0 million cubic yards of material annually. Table I lists location by name and river mile, and approximate annual quantities of material dredged in recent years. Due to the amount of bedload movement and the continual migration of sand bars, it is not possible to predict exact locations where dredging and associated discharge will be required. The anticipated discharge areas have been previously covered by earlier water quality certifications.

SEDIMENT TESTING: Results of testing of Hickman Harbor sediments have been furnished the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, Division of Water for the 1997 dredging season, the most recent year available. Contaminant

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Table I. Current Dredging Sites Between Mississippi River Miles 886 and 930 AHP:]

CROSSING NAME	RIVER MILE	QUANTITY DREDGED MILLION CUBIC YARDS
Wolf Island	930	0.8
Beckwith Bend	923	1.0
French Point	915	0.8
Island 8 Lower	912	0.6
New Madrid	887	0.9

levels have been consistently below detectable limits for chlorinated hydrocarbons and PCBs, therefore, testing was not performed for years 1998 through the current year. The Memphis District has not performed chemical testing of sediment being dredged within the main river in past years because it was the District's opinion that material being dredged was not silt or clay, which carry these contaminants. The Division of Water has requested that sieve tests be made on material from the main channel of the Mississippi River to ascertain particle sizes.

Water Quality Certification: The purpose of this public notice is to renew water quality certification for the navigational dredging project within the Commonwealth of Kentucky, to advise all interested parties of the proposed renewal and to solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the probable water quality concerns. This notice is being circulated to the following Federal, state, and local environmental agencies:

Environmental Protection Agency, Atlanta, GA
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cookeville, TN
National Park Service, Albuquerque, NM
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Frankfort, KY

Threatened and Endangered Species: The Memphis District continually coordinates threatened and endangered species issues with the USFWS and state game and fish agencies. Compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended is a continuous process and is not being considered in this notice.

The District is aware of interior least tern nesting sites and avoids dredging in the vicinity of these sites during the nesting season. The pallid sturgeon, *Scaphirhynchus albus*, is known to utilize the Mississippi River; however, little is known about the species' ecological and habitat requirements in the lower Mississippi River. Any comments USFWS may have regarding other endangered or threatened wildlife or plants, or their critical habitat, will be considered in our evaluation of the described work. In the Middle Mississippi River, the St. Louis District has agreed that no dredging will occur during the period 12 April and 30 June, the presumed spawning season.

Cultural Resources: The Memphis District is complying with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and implementing regulations found in 36 CFR Part 800. This notice is being coordinated with the Kentucky SHPO and the State Archaeologist.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): An EIS for the Mississippi Rivers and Tributaries Project was prepared pursuant to NEPA. An EA will be prepared at the conclusion of the comment period to update the record.

Designation of the proposed disposal sites for dredged and fill material associated with this Federal project shall be made

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through the application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army. The Administrator, EPA, has not previously designated the areas as disposal sites. A Section 404(b)(1) evaluation will be prepared at the close of the comment period.

By copy of this public notice, the Memphis District is requesting water quality certification from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet, Department for Environmental Protection, Division of Water, in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the comment period a determination relative to water quality certification will be made. A determination concerning deposition of material will not be made, nor will deposition commence, until water quality certification or waiver of the right to certify is obtained.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Federally-recognized Tribes; and other interested parties on behalf of the Division of Water (DOW) in order to assist DOW in evaluating the impacts of the proposed activity on the **water quality** of the Commonwealth. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to modify, or condition the project.

If you wish to obtain additional information or to submit comments on the proposal, please contact Randy Clark, at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 167 N Main Street, RM B202, Memphis, TN 38103-1894, telephone 901/544-0735.

Comments should be forwarded to reach this office by October 31, 2007.



Larry D. Watson
Chief
Regulatory Branch

Attachments

MORLEY 4 MI.

BENTON 10 MI.

ANNA 37 MI.

PADUCAH 32 MI.

89°00

DYERSBURG QUAD

